

REFERENCES

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4. A LARGE TIGER

You may be interested in the measurements of a large tiger I recently shot in Assam. I could not weigh it but it was quite the heaviest of the 28 tigers I have shot, including a genuine 'ten footer', plus about twice that number whose death I have witnessed. The measurements were as follows:—

Between pegs, nose to end of tail	...	9'-8"	(10'-4")
Circumference of chest	...	61"	(54")
" " forearm	...	24"	(21")
Length of skull, between uprights	...	15½"	(16")
Width " " across zygomatic arches	...	11"	(10½")
Height " "	7½"	(7¼")

In parenthesis immediately after these measurements I give those of a big tiger (10' 4" between pegs) shot in the Kheri Forests of the United Province on 25th March 1946 by the Hon'ble Iqbal Ahmed, Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court. (Figures taken from a leaflet issued by Messrs. Van Ingen of Mysore.)

One canine which has dropped out of my tiger's skull is 5½" long and has a circumference of 3½" at the thickest part.

PACHMARHI, M.P.,

June 15, 1954.

T. B. HAWKINS

5. HABITS OF THE ASIATIC BLACK BEAR (*SELENARCTOS THIBETANUS THIBETANUS* G. CUVIER)

In the Fauna of British India—Mammalia Vol. II pp. 211 (1941) R. I. Pocock writes:

'It is largely nocturnal and arboreal, making in large trees rough platforms of branches, known as *wun-thaik* (bear's nest) on which it may sit and rest.'

In May 1925, I trekked from Kyatkon village on the Pegu-Mandalay railway line to Zaungtu on the Pegu River via Wakadok Forest Rest House and Shwelaung Forest Rest House (17° 35' N. 96° 20' E.), Pegu South Forest Division. I arrived at Shwelaung on the afternoon of the third day. After a short rest and tea, I strolled

about in the neighbourhood of the rest house with my tracker Po Hmu of Bawni village. We came upon a bear constructing a nest of green branches in a big tree over a hundred feet up. I brought down the bear with my rifle. Next morning we set out to track either tsaing or bison. On hearing the cracking of branches, we went to investigate and saw a pair of bears constructing a nest also 100-120 ft. high. I shot one with my rifle while my tracker shot the other with my shot-gun as it was coming down the tree. This nest was also under construction and made of green branches of the tree on which it was built.

The monsoon breaks in Burma in May. It appears therefore that bears construct nests for rest and protection during the rainy season.

This species is known as *Wet-wun* in Burmese and *Tsap* in Kachin.

7, SHAN ROAD,
RANGOON,
January 18, 1954.

U TUN YIN

6. LONGEVITY OF THE CEYLON RUDDY MONGOOSE (*HERPESTES SMITHI ZEYLANICUS*) IN CAPTIVITY

When visiting some friends recently, I was shown a tame Ruddy Mongoose (*H. smithi zeylanicus*) which had been with the family for many years. It is an old male, now rather fat and losing some of its teeth but apparently still healthy, fairly active and very tame.

Fortunately, its history and approximate age are known. Mrs. Garnier, the owner, informs me that it was obtained in the Ratnapura district (Wet Zone) of South Ceylon in January 1938, when it was believed to be about three months old. Since October 1938, it has been kept continuously by either Mrs. Garnier or her sister, so its age is known to be approximately 16 years and 9 months, at the end of July 1954.

As far as I am aware this is a record age for a mongoose of this species.

TONACOMBE,
NAMUNUKULA,
CEYLON,
August 16, 1954.

W. W. A. PHILLIPS

[Major S. S. Flower (P.Z.S. 1931: 169) in recording the longevity of several species of mongooses, refers to an example of the Indian Stripenecked Mongoose, *Herpestes vitticollis* which lived in the Trivandrum Zoological Garden for 12 years 10 months 18 days. This was the longest age on record, the others ranging chiefly between 4½ and 10 years, except once in the case of an African species—the Yellow Meerkat (*Cynictis pencilata*) which lived in the London Zoo for 12 years, 10 months and 2 days.—Eds.]